

Message Text

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EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ACTION PRIORITY TO SECDEF.
TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE.

STATE FOR HARTMANN AND VEST; DEFENSE FOR SECDEF RUMSFELD,
DEP SECDEF ELLSWORTH, ASD/ISA MCAULLIFFEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR NATO MPOL MARR GW

SUBJECT: TWO-WAY STREET DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH
ARMAMENTS DIRECTOR

THE FOLLOWING IS A MESSAGE FROM DR. CURRIE (DDRE):

1. ON 21 APRIL IN PARIS, I DISCUSSED STANDARDIZATION
AND THE TWO-WAY STREET PRIVAXELY WITH DELPECH, THE
FRENCH ARMAMENT DIRECTOR. I POINTED OUT THAT THE US
COULD WAIVE "BUY AMERICAN" RESTRICTIONS ON EUROPEAN
SYSTEMS WHEN US PURCHASE OF THOSE SYSTEMS WAS COST
EFFECTIVE AND RESULTED IN INCREASED NATO STANDARDIZATION
OR CONTRIBUTED TO THE TWO-WAY STREET IN DEFENSE PRODUCTS
WHICH IN TURN MADE STANDARDIZATION POSSIBLE. I STATED
THAT THE US WOULD SOON WAIVE "BUY AMERICAN" RESTRICTIONS
FOR CERTAIN UK AND FRG PRODUCTS BUT NOT FOR FRENCH
COMPETITORS. THE REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT THE UK AND
THE FRG ARE ENGAGED IN MANY CONCRETE PROGRAMS

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CONTRIBUTING TO A TWO-WAY STREET BETWEEN THE US AND

EUROPE WHILE FRANCE WAS NOT DOING MUCH. I SUGGESTED THAT FRANCE CONSIDER SOME SORT OF INITIATIVE WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR RECIPROCAL WAIVING OF RESTRICTIONS BY BOTH THE US AND FRANCE.

2. DELPECH SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE DIFFICULTY OF WAIVING "BUY AMERICAN" RESTRICTIONS ON FRENCH PRODUCTS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED FOR STEP BY STEP PROGRESS TOWARD GREATER COOPERATION BUT THAT POLITICAL REALITIES IN FRANCE PREVENTED HIM FROM TAKING ANY EARLY ACTION.

3. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON WAIVE "BUY AMERICAN" RESTRICTIONS ON THE FRG COAST GUARD AIRCRAFT BID IN VIEW OF FRG DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES WITH THE US. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF REASONING IN PARAGRAPHS ONE AND TWO, I RECOMMEND THAT "BUY AMERICAN" NOT REPEAT NOT BE WAIVED FOR FRANCE AT THIS TIME.
CASH

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